

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, MARCH 1 AND 2

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MET IN BRUSSELS MARCH 1 AND 2. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED SOCIAL SECURITY TREATMENT FOR TURKISH WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY; THE NEGOTIATION OF THE THIRD FINANCIAL PROTOCOL TO THE EC-TURKISH AGREEMENT; AND TURKISH DESIRES TO EXPAND AND DIVERSIFY AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY. WHILE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS WAS APPARENT, THE TURKS PRONOUNCED THEMSELVES SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND FRG MINISTER GENSCHER ALSO HELD BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

2. SOCIAL SECURITY FOR TURKISH WORKERS: THE TURKS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE COMMUNITY'S STATEMENTS REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY TREATMENT FOR TURKISH WORKERS IN THE EC. THE GERMAN DELEGATION, AT THE LAST MOMENT, AGREED TO A COMMUNITY OFFER SPECIFYING THAT TURKISH WORKERS WOULD AT LEAST BE AS WELL OFF AS WORKERS FROM ANY OTHER THIRD COUNTRY IN TERMS OF SOCIAL

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SECURITY BENEFITS.

3. THE THIRD FINANCIAL PROTOCOL: THE TURKS SAID THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE UNDERTAKING GIVEN BY THE COMMUNITY TO PROCEED "AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE" WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE SECOND FINANCIAL PROTOCOL TO INCLUDE THE THREE NEW MEMBER STATES. (THIS WOULD INCREASE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY FROM APPROXIMATELY 195 MILLION UA TO APPROXIMATELY 240 MILLION UA.) THE EC ALSO DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE NEXT YEAR A THIRD FINANCIAL PROTOCOL, THE VALUE OF WHICH WOULD BE IN EXCESS OF THE SECOND PROTOCOL. COUNCIL SOURCES INDICATE THAT WHILE NO DECISION HAS AS YET BEEN TAKEN, THE VALUE OF THE THIRD FINANCIAL PROTOCOL IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE 400 MILLION UA PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION.

4. TURKISH EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY: THE COMMUNITY OFFERED AND THE TURKS ACCEPTED "AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS" A "NEW APPROACH" REGARDING TURKISH EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY. THE EC'S STATEMENT TOOK NOTE OF THE PORTION OF THE ANKARA TREATY SETTING OUT A FAVORABLE REGIME FOR TRADE LEADING EVENTUALLY TO A CUSTOMS UNION. THE COMMUNITY WENT ON RECORD AS RECOGNIZING TURKISH INTERESTS IN "DEVELOPING AND DIVERSIFYING" ITS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY. THE EC ALSO INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO RECONSIDER ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OFFER "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT COMPETITION IN EC MARKETS FROM THIRD COUNTRY IMPORTS." (THE TURKS HAVE BEEN SEEKING TREATMENT AS FAVORABLE AS THAT GIVEN TO MAGHREB AND ISRAELI EXPORTS BY THE EC.) WHILE SPECIFIC DETAILS WERE NOT DISCUSSED WITH THE TURKS WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT IN THE COMMUNITIES' PREPARATION SESSION THE MEMBER STATES AGREED THAT THEIR PREVIOUS OFFER TO LIBERALIZE TURKISH IMPORTS COVERED BY 16 TARIFF POSITIONS WAS CLEARLY NOT ADEQUATE AND THAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDED TO MOVE CLOSER TO THE COMMISSION'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL COVERING SOME 25 TARIFF POSITIONS. BOTH THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN DELEGATIONS INSERTED IN THE RECORD THEIR "UNDERSTANDING" THAT INCREASES IN TURKISH AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THEIR FARM PRODUCTION. SPECIFIC DETAILS OF ANY EC AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT IN THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO COUNCIL SOURCES THE TURKS PROFESSED THEMSELVES SATISFIED WITH THE COMMUNITY'S OFFER, ALTHOUGH THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD EXPECT THE COMMUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TO BRING SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

5. GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY: THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATED HIS CONCERN REGARDING THE POSSIBLE EFFECT ON ANY TURKISH APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF GREEK ASSOCIATION OR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY. THE EUROPEAN SIDE RESPONDED BY REPEATING THAT GREECE, EVEN IF A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO EXERCISE A VETO OVER ANY TURKISH APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT

HAD AGREED TO THIS CONSTRAINT. COUNCIL SOURCES SPECULATE THAT THE TURKISH MINISTER RAISED THE MATTER NOT OUT OF ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN, BUT MERELY BECAUSE HE WOULD APPEAR REMISS AT HOME IF THE ITEM WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

6. FRG-TURKEY BILATERAL: ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANBIL MET WITH FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, URGING HIM TO INTERVENE WITH THE US WITH REGARD TO THE US BASES ISSUE. GENSCHER SAID HE WAS RELUCTANT TO DO THIS, NOTING THAT THE PROBLEM WAS PRINCIPALLY ONE WITH THE US CONGRESS AND NOT WITH THE US ADMINISTRATION. (WE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.) ALSO DISCUSSED DURING THE BILATERAL WAS THE PLANNED VISIT BY FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO TURKEY IN JULY FOR WHICH CAGLAYANGIL WILL VISIT BONN TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS IN JUNE.

7. UK/TURKEY BILATERAL: FOLLOWING THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN MET FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL. NO DETAILS OF THEIR MEETING ARE KNOWN, BUT A UK SOURCE SAID THE TALKS CENTERED ON COMPENSATION TO BE PAID BY THE TURKS FOR BRITISH PROPERTY ON CYPRUS.

8. COMMENT: THE TURKISH PRESS, AS REPORTED IN ANKARA'S 1668, SEEMS TO HAVE MISREPRESENTED THE TENOR OF THE DISCUSSIONS. BEFORE THE MEETING, MOST COMMUNITY SOURCES RECOGNIZED THAT TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL WOULD ATTEMPT TO GAIN POSITIVE TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE BY APPEARING TO "STAND UP TO THE EC". ON MONDAY NIGHT, WORKING AGAINST A DEADLINE OF THE CUSTOMARY ASSOCIATION DINNER, THE COMMUNITY AGREED TO CONTINUE THE FOLLOWING MORNING DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE AGRICULTURAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PRODUCT CONCESSIONS TO BE OFFERED TO TURKEY. AT A BRIEFING FOR TURKISH CORRESPONDENTS, CAGLAYANGIL PORTRAYED THIS AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW HIS SKILL HAD "FORCED THE EC TO BETTER ITS OFFER." SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, AT A BRIEFING FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, A TURKISH SPOKESMAN DOWN PLAYED ANY CONFLICT AND WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SAY THAT NO WALKOUT HAD IN FACT OCCURRED.

9. A SIMILARLY TWO-SIDED PRESS POLICY WAS IN OPERATION THE FOLLOWING DAY WHEN A TURKISH SPOKESMAN ATTEMPTED TO DENY TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS THAT EITHER CYPRUS OR GREEK/TURKISH RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY HAD COME UP WHEN ALL OTHER SOURCES WERE CONFIRMING THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE. IN ANY EVENT, THE TURKISH DELEGATION APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT BRUSSELS SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE COUNCIL. AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE VALUE OF THE EC'S CONCESSIONS COVERING TURKEY'S FARM PRODUCT EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON TH DETAILS AS THEY ARE WORKED OUT IN THE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE.

END COMMENT.HINTON

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